

# Choral music for Christmas

## Three Irish Poems

- 1) Prayer For A Child
- 2) Irish Lullaby
- 3) A Noble Boy

**Ken Johnston**

### **FULL SCORE**

**for SSA (or SAA) voices**  
with piano and (optional) strings

**Words:** 1) Winifred M. Letts  
2) Alfred Percival Graves  
3) Anonymous

Version for 2 part voices with piano and strings composed 1997  
This version 2002

**Duration of individual songs:** 1) 3' 2) 4' 3) 4'

Versions of this piece are also available for the following voice combinations:

2 part voices (2<sup>nd</sup> part optional)  
SATB  
SAB

Each version has the same accompaniment options as above

For each version, a FULL SCORE and a VOCAL SCORE (voices + piano) is available

String parts are available separately

# Three Irish Poems 1) Prayer For A Child

Poem -  
Winifred M. Letts

for SSA (or SAA\*) voices and piano with (optional) strings\*\*

Music -  
Ken Johnston

**Slow and gentle** ♩ = 60 (solo or small group ad lib.) *P*

Soprano 1  
Soprano 2  
Alto  
Piano  
Violin I  
Violin II  
Viola  
Violoncello  
Double bass

*P*  
Ped. — Ped. — (sim.)

God keep my jewel this

S1  
day from dan-ger, From tin-ker and poo-ka and black-heart-ed stran-ger... From

S1  
harm of the wa-ter, from hurt of the fire. From the horns of the cows going home to the byre...

\* The second soprano part can be sung by altos.  
\*\* In this string arrangement the double bass part is optional.

Duration: 3'

13 **A**

S1 (tutti) *p*  
From the sight of the fair-ies that

S2 *p*  
mm

A *p*  
mm

Vln I con sord. *sempre p legato*

Vln II con sord. *sempre p legato*

Vla con sord. *sempre p legato*

Vc. con sord. *sempre p legato*

Db. pizz. *sempre p* arco

18

S1  
may-be might change her... From teas-ing the ass..when he's tied to the man - ger...

S2

A  
From

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

21

**S1** *p*  
mm

**S2**  
mm

**A**  
stones that would bruise her, from thorns of the briar. From ev - il red ber - ries that

**Vln I**

**Vln II**

**Vla**

**Vc.**

**Db.**

Detailed description: This page of a musical score for 'Prayer For A Child' (SSA) features seven staves. The top two staves are for Soprano 1 (S1) and Soprano 2 (S2), both marked 'mm' (mezzo-moderato). The third staff is for the Alto (A) voice, with lyrics: 'stones that would bruise her, from thorns of the briar. From ev - il red ber - ries that'. The piano accompaniment consists of a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The string section includes Violin I (Vln I), Violin II (Vln II), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (Db.). The score is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time, with a key signature change to D major (two sharps) in the final measure. A dynamic marking of 'p' (piano) is present at the beginning of the S1 staff.

24

S1  
mm

S2  
mm

A  
wake her de- sire. *p*  
mm

*poco cresc.*

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.  
pizz.

Db.  
arco *V*

28 **B** *p*

S1 oo

S2 hunt-ing the gan - der and vex-ing the goat. oo *p*

A oo From the depths o' sea wa - ter by *mp*

*mp*

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

31

S1  
oo... May

S2  
*mp*  
From cut and from tum-ble, from sick-ness and weep-ing.- May

A  
*p*  
Dan-ny's old boat. oo... May

P

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

34

S1  
God have my jewel this day in his keep - ing.

S2  
God have my jewel this day in his keep - ing. mm

A  
God have my jewel this day in his keep - ing. mm

*p*

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.  
pizz.

Db.

37

S2  
rit.  
dim.  
mm

A  
dim.  
mm

*dim.*

Vln I  
*dim.*

Vln II  
*dim.*

Vla  
*dim.*

Vc.  
*dim.*

Db.  
*dim.*

arco

# Three Irish Poems

## 2) Irish Lullaby

Full score

for SSA (or SAA) voices and piano with (optional) strings\*

Poem - Alfred Percival Graves

Music - Ken Johnston

**Flowing** ♩ = 90 (all S unison) *p*

Soprano: 1) I'd rock my own sweet child - die to

Piano: *p* Ped. (sim.)

Violin I: (senza sord.)

Violin II: (senza sord.)

Viola: (senza sord.)

Violoncello: (senza sord.)

Double bass: (senza sord.)

8

S rest in a cradle of gold on a bough of the willow, To the shoo - heen ho of the

15

S wind of the west and the lull - la lo of the soft sea - bil - low.

\* The double bass part is optional.

Duration: 4'

**A**

21

S (S div.) *p* Sleep, sleep, — ba-by dear, Sleep with-out fear, Mo- ther is *poco cresc.*

S Sleep, sleep, sleep, Sleep with-out fear, — Mo- ther is *poco cresc.*

A Sleep, sleep, sleep, — Sleep with-out fear, — Mo- ther is *poco cresc.*

*pp* *poco cresc.*

*pp* *poco cresc.*

*pp* *poco cresc.*

*pp* *poco cresc.*

*pp* *poco cresc.*

28

S here — be - side your pil - low. *mp* Sleep, sleep, — ba - by dear, —

S here — be - side your pil - low. *mp* Sleep, sleep, sleep,

A here — be - side your pil - low. *mp* Sleep, sleep, sleep,

*mp*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

34

S *dim.*  
Sleep, sleep with-out fear.

S *dim.*  
sleep, Sleep, sleep with-out fear. *mp* 2) I'd

A *dim.*  
sleep, Sleep, sleep with-out fear.

*dim.* *p*

Vln I *dim.*

Vln II *dim.*

Vla *dim.*

Vc. *dim.* *mp*

Db. *dim.*

41 **B**

S *p*  
oo

S  
put my own sweet chil - die to sleep in a sil - ver boat on the beau - ti - ful

A *p*  
oo

*mp*

Vln I *p*

Vln II *p*

Vla *p*

Vc. *p*

Db. *p*

48

S

oo

S

ri- ver, Where a sho - heen whis - per the white cas - cades, and a lul - la lo to the

A

oo

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

55

C *mp*

S

Sleep, sleep, ba-by dear, Sleep with-out

S

green flags shi- ver.. *mp*

Sleep, sleep, sleep, Sleep with-out

A

*mp*

Sleep, sleep, sleep, Sleep with-out

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

*p*

62

*poco cresc.* *mf*

S fear, Mo- ther is here— with you for e- ver... Sleep, sleep,—

S fear,— Mo- ther is here— with you for e- ver... Sleep, sleep,

A fear,— Mo- ther is here— with you for e- ver... Sleep, sleep,

*poco cresc.* *mf*

Vln I *poco cresc.* *mp*

Vln II *poco cresc.* *mp*

Vla *poco cresc.* *mp*

Vc. *poco cresc.* *mp*

Db. *poco cresc.* *mp*

69

*dim.*

S ba- by dear, Sleep, sleep with- out fear.

S sleep, sleep, Sleep, sleep with- out fear.

A sleep, sleep, Sleep, sleep with- out fear.

*dim.* *mp*

Vln I *dim.*

Vln II *dim.*

Vla *dim.*

Vc. *dim.*

Db. *dim.*

76 **D**

S *p* 3) Lull lo, lull lo to the rise and fall of mo - ther's bo - som tis

S *p* mm

A *p* mm

Vln I *p* solo *v*

Vln II *p* pizz.

Vla *p* pizz.

Vc. *p* pizz.

Db. *p* pizz.

83

S sleep has bound you, And O, my child, what co - si - er nest for ro - si - er

S And O, my child, what co - si - er nest for ro - si - er

A And O, my child, what co - si - er nest for ro - si - er

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

**E**

90

S rest could love have found you? Sleep, sleep,

S rest could love have found you? Sleep, sleep,

A rest could love have found you? Sleep, sleep,

Vln I tutti *pp*

Vln II arco *pp*

Vla arco *pp*

Vc. arco *pp*

Db. arco *pp*

*pp*

96

S ba-by dear, Sleep with-out fear, Mo- ther's two arms are clasped a -

S sleep, Sleep with-out fear, Mo- ther's two arms are clasped a -

A sleep, Sleep with-out fear, Mo- ther's two arms are clasped a -

Vln I *poco cresc.*

Vln II *poco cresc.*

Vla *poco cresc.*

Vc. *poco cresc.*

Db. *poco cresc.*

*poco cresc.*

102

S *mp* round you... Sleep, sleep, — ba - by dear, — *dim.* Sleep,

S *mp* round you... Sleep, sleep, sleep, sleep, Sleep, *dim.*

A *mp* round you... Sleep, sleep, sleep, sleep, Sleep, *dim.*

*mp* *dim.*

Vln I *p* *dim.*

Vln II *p* *dim.*

Vla *p* *dim.*

Vc. *p* *dim.*

Db. *p* *dim.*

108

S **F** *p* sleep with - out fear... Sleep, sleep, —

S *p* sleep with - out fear... Sleep, sleep,

A *p* sleep with - out fear... Sleep, sleep,

*p* *pp*

Vln I *pp*

Vln II *pp*

Vla *pp*

Vc. *pp*

Db. *pp*

113

S  
ba - by dear, Sleep, sleep with - out fear.

S  
sleep, sleep, Sleep, sleep with - out fear.

A  
sleep, sleep, Sleep, sleep with - out fear.

dim. poco rit.

dim.

dim.

dim.

dim.

dim.

dim.

dim.

(attacca No. 3)

# Three Irish Poems 3) A Noble Boy

Poem -  
Anonymous

for SSA (or SAA) voices and piano with (optional) strings\*

Music -  
Ken Johnston

**Rhythmical and light** ♩ = 144 (unison S) *mf*

S  
A  
Piano  
Violin I  
Violin II  
Viola  
Violoncello  
Double bass

5

S  
A  
Piano  
Vln I  
Vln II  
Vla  
Vc.  
Db.

wo-man was old and fee-ble and grey, And bent with the chill of the win-ter's day; The

\* The double bass part is optional.

Duration: 4'

9

S  
A

street was wet with the re- cent snow, And the wo- man's feet were wea- ry and slow.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

13

S  
A

(S div.) *mf* **A**

She stood at the cros- sing and wai - ted long, A - lone, un- cared for, a- mid the

*mf*

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

arco

arco

arco

arco

17

S

A

through.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

21

**B**

S

A

Down the street, with laugh - ter and shout, Glad in the free - dom of 'school let

Down the street, with laugh - ter and shout,

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

24

S out', Came the boys, like a flock of sheep;

A Glad in the free-dom of 'school let out', Came the boys, like a flock of

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

27

S Hail-ing the snow, piled white and deep. Past the wo-man, so old and grey,

A sheep; Hail-ing the snow, piled white and

Vln I arco

Vln II arco

Vla arco

Vc. arco

Db. arco

**C** *f*

31

S  
Hast-ened the chil - dren on their way, Nor of - fered a help - ing hand to her, So meek, so ti - mid, a - fraid to

A

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

36

S  
stir. At

A

Vln I  
pizz.

Vln II  
pizz.

Vla

Vc.  
pizz.

Db.  
pizz.

*mf*

*mf*

*dim.*

*dim.*

*dim.*

*dim.*

40 **D**

S last came one of the mer-ry\_ troop, The bright-est boy of all the group; He

A

*mf*

Vln I *mf*

Vln II *mf*

Vla *mf* pizz.

Vc. *mf*

Db. *mf*

44

S paused be-side her, and whis-pered low, 'T'll help you a-cross if you wish to go';

A

*p*

*p*

Vln I *p*

Vln II *p*

Vla *p*

Vc. *p*

Db. *p*

48 *mf* **E**

S He gui - ded the trem - bling feet a - long, Proud that his own\_ were firm and

A *mf*

Vln I arco *mf*

Vln II arco *mf*

Vla arco *mf*

Vc. arco *mf*

Db. arco *mf*

52

S strong\_

A *mf* Then

Vln I pizz.

Vln II pizz.

Vla pizz.

Vc. pizz.

Db. pizz.

56 **F** *mf*

S Then back a - gain to his friends, he went, \_\_\_\_\_ His

A back a - gain to his friends, he went, \_\_\_\_\_ His young heart hap - py, and well con -

Vln I

Vln II *pizz*

Vla

Vc. *pizz*

Db.

59

S young heart hap - py, and well con - tent, 'She is some - bo - dy's mo - ther, boys, you

A tent, 'She is some - bo - dy's mo - ther, boys, you know, \_\_\_\_\_ Al-

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

62 **G**

S know, \_\_\_\_\_ Al-though she is old and poor And I hope some o-ther will lend a hand To help my mo-ther, you

A though she is old and poor and slow. *f*

Vln I *arco* *f*

Vln II *arco* *f*

Vla *arco* *f*

Vc. *arco* *f*

Db. *arco* *f*

67

S un - der-stand, If e'er she be poor and old and grey, When her own dear boy is far a - way.' \_\_\_\_\_

A

Vln I *v*

Vln II *v*

Vla *v*

Vc. *v*

Db. *v*

**molto rit.**

72

*dim. poco a poco*

Vln I *dim. poco a poco*

Vln II *dim. poco a poco*

Vla *dim. poco a poco*

Vc. *dim. poco a poco*

Db. *dim. poco a poco*

**H**

**Slow and gentle** ♩ = 60

76

*p*

*con sord.*

*p legato*

*p legato*

*p legato*

*p legato*

*pizz.*

*p*

*Ped. Ped. (sim.)*

80

S *pp*

A *p*  
And 'some - bo - dy's mo - ther' bowed low her head, In her

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db. *arco*

83

S *pp* **I**  
*pp*

A *pp*  
home that night, and the prayer she said was, 'God be kind to the

Vln I *pp*

Vln II *pp*

Vla *pp*

Vc. *pp*

Db. *pp*

86

Who is some - bo - dy's son, and pride, and joy'.

no - ble boy, mm

89

rit.